

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04508 181359Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEAE-00 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ONY-00 /026 W
-----099824 181409Z /44-R
O 181333Z JUL 77 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3973

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4508

STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR DRAPER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SY, US
SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWRY

REF: DAMASCUS 4495

1. DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS SHOUFFI ASKED ME TO COME
TO FONMINISTRY AT 1400L TODAY WHERE HE READ TO ME FOLLOWING
TEXT "IN THE NAME OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY":

QTE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DESIRE EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT
CARTER, WE CONSENT TO ALLOWING THESE TWELVE LADIES AND THE
TWO OTHERS TO TRAVEL WITHOUT ASKING FOR GUARANTEES
FOR THEIR RETURN, PROVIDED THAT THE MARRIAGE ARRANGEMENTS
ARE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW OF SYRIA. UNQTE.

2. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE REFERENCE TO THE "TWO OTHERS" REFERS
TO THE CASE OF ACKMAN'S FIANCEE AND TO THAT OF VIOLETTE
FARHI WHOSE RELATIVES IN THE STATES HAVE ASKED HER TO COME TO
LIVE WITH THEM FOR PURPOSE OF EDUCATION. (SHOUFFI DESCRIBED
THIS AS "THE ADOPTION CASE.")

3. SHOUFFI ADDED THAT REFERENCE TO THE LAWS OF SYRIA IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 04508 181359Z

THIS CONTEXT MEANT THAT TOUTAH CAN OFFICIATE AT THE MARRIAGE
IN DAMASCUS IN THE PLACE OF THE INTENDING BRIDEGROOM. FINALLY,
HE NOTED THAT REFERENCE TO "GUARANTEES OF RETURN" MEANS THAT
BONDS HAVE BEEN WAIVED. SHOUFFI TOGETHER WITH DEPONMIN AL-KHANI
HAS BRIEFED STEVE SHALOM AND TOUTAH TO THIS EFFECT. (I HAVE
JUST MET WITH TOUTAH AND SHALOM AND THEIR ACCOUNT TRACKS
COMPLETELY. TOUTAH SAW ORDER SIGNED BY ASSAD.)

4. SHOEFI NOTED THAT SHALOM, IN EXPRESSING APPRECIATION, HAD SAID TO AL-KHANI HE EXPECTED THERE WOULD BE FURTHER APPLICATIONS. AL-KHANI HAD REPLIED THAT SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS WOULD BE TREATED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. SHOEFI URGED THAT IN MY NEXT MEETING WITH ASSAD I FIND WAY BOTH TO THANK HIM FOR ABOVE PERMISSIONS AND SUGGEST THAT PROCEDURE BE SET UP TO COVER FUTURE CASES SO THEY WOULD NOT NEED TO BE BROUGHT TO PRESIDENT FOR INDIVIDUAL DECISION. "THE IMPORTANT THING IS NOT RPT NOT TO FLOOD US WITH APPLICATIONS." I AGREED ON BOTH COUNTS.

5. COMMENT:

I AM BOTH PLEASED AND UNEASY ABOUT THIS GESTURE ON ASSAD'S PART. PLEASED BECAUSE IT IS THE BEST POSSIBLE OUTCOME TO THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM AND BECAUSE IT GIVES US SOMETHING TO SAY IF SUBJECT IS RAISED BY BEGIN. AM UNEASY BECAUSE ASSAD HAVING MADE THIS GESTURE MAY BALK AT AGREEING TO ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING FUTURE CASES.

6. ACTION RECOMMENDED:

I CONSIDER THAT A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE FROM CARTER TO ASSAD IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE WOULD BE MOST USEFUL. IDEALLY IT WOULD PRECEDE END OF BEGIN VISIT AND NOT BECOME ENTANGLED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAMASC 04508 181359Z

WITH THAT VISIT IN ASSAD'S MIND. (I ADMIT ASSAD MAY HAVE CALCULATED HAVING EFFECT ON BEGIN VISIT BUT I HAVE NOTHING FIRM ON WHICH TO BASE THIS.) LETTER IN ITSELF WILL UNDERLINE CARTER'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN WHOLE ISSUE AND SHOULD BE SO WORDED TO WORK IN THOUGHT THAT AS FURTHER PROPOSALS MAY BE DEVELOPED CARTER IS CONFIDENT ASSAD WILL SEE THEY ARE GIVEN THE SAME HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATION. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, RECOMMEND TEXT INCLUDE REFERENCE TO SHALOM OR PERHPAS JUST TO "MEMBERS OF SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY IN BROOKLYN" AS GROUP ENGAGED IN FACILITATING THESE MARRIAGES. CITING OF THIS GROUP BY CARTER WOULD CONFIRM THEIR CREDENTIALS WITH ASSAD. (SHALOM TOLD ME THIS MORNING HE AND CHABOT ARE PREPARED TO RETURN HERE PERSONALLY WITH FUTURE APPLICATIONS IF THIS PROVES NECESSARY.)

7. PLEASE PROCEED WITH AIDE MEMOIRE PREPARATIONS SINCE I THINK IT CONTAINS USEFUL MATERIAL TO HAVE IN DAOUDY'S HANDS FOR THE LONG RUN HANDLING OF THIS QUESTION.

8. FINALLY, IN INFORMING OTHERS ABOUT THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT, I URGE THAT THEY BE CAUTIONED AGAINST PUBLICITY. AL-KHANI MADE PLAIN THAT SYRIA WANTS NONE. SYRIAN ATTITUDE MAY CHANGE IN TIME BUT WE SHOULD DO OUR UTMOST TO AVOID

PUBLICITY FOR PRESENT. SHALOM HAS PLEDGED NONE WILL COME
FROM HIM. HE IS RETURNING DAY EARLY TO ATTEND THURSDAY
RECEPTION IN NEW YORK IN BEGIN'S HONOR. HE WONDERS WHETHER
HE SHOULD ENCOURAGE BEGIN TO THINK OF RECIPROCAL GESTURE. I
SAID I BELIEVED IT BEST FOR NOW TO CONTINUE TREAT ISSUE IN
SYRO-AMERICAN CONTEXT.
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PAROLE, JEWS, WOMEN, NEGOTIATIONS, MARRIAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC04508
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770255-1098
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770748/aaaabpkh.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cfe7356a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 DAMASCUS 4495
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1833378
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN JEWRY
TAGS: PINS, SOCI, SY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cfe7356a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009